



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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9 September 2020

Ms Angel WONG
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms WONG,

Panel on Education
Follow-up to the meeting on 25 May 2020

With regard to the two motions passed under the agenda item “Mechanism of question setting of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination” at the meeting on 25 May 2020, our response is at Annex.

Yours sincerely,

(Eric Lau)

for Secretary for Education

**Response from Education Bureau
to the motions passed under the agenda item
“Mechanism of question setting of the Hong Kong Diploma of
Secondary Education Examination”
at the meeting of the Panel on Education on 25 May 2020**

Wording of the Motion

A compulsory question in History Paper 1 of this year’s Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (“HKDSE”) required candidates to give their standpoints on “Japan did more good than harm to China in the period 1900-1945”. The question also provided two paragraphs of biased information for reference of candidates in answering the question. Such information was all about how Japanese helped China develop during the early 20th century, without mentioning the historical facts of the subsequent ruthless Japanese invasion of China. This has aroused suspicion that candidates were deliberately guided to misunderstand the Sino-Japanese relations back then. The question itself was grossly inappropriate and lacked educational professionalism. This Panel supports the final decision of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (“HKEAA”) to invalidate the compulsory question.

In addition, those moderation committee members in HKEAA who were responsible for setting the History examination paper had infused their personal political views into the HKDSE question to deliberately mislead candidates by distorting historical facts, and thus seriously hurt the feelings and dignity of the Chinese people who suffered great pain during the Japanese invasion of China. In this connection, the Panel expresses grave anger and urges that the Education Bureau and HKEAA must conduct a serious investigation into this incident, impose severe punishments on and even dismiss all the members involved, and improve the existing monitoring mechanism for the setting and moderating of HKDSE questions, so as to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents.

(Moved by Hon YUNG Hoi-yan and seconded by Hon Elizabeth QUAT)

Wording of the Motion

Regarding a problematic question appeared in the History examination paper of this year's Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority ("HKEAA") has failed to monitor the situation properly. This has not only aroused heated controversies in Hong Kong society, but also offended the Chinese people who suffered during the Japanese invasion of China. Candidates were disturbed as well. In this connection, this Panel urges HKEAA to make a public apology and give a full account of the incident.

(Moved by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and seconded by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon LEUNG Che-cheung)

Response

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority has conducted an internal investigation on the problematic question in the History examination paper of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (“HKDSE”) and submitted a report to the Education Bureau (EDB). A task force set up by the EDB has started its work on reviewing the related question setting and moderation mechanism of the HKDSE, as well as whether the mechanism has been strictly complied with in the question setting and moderation of the History examination paper. The task force will propose improvement measures after the review.